



It's A Red Carpet Affair!



The “It’s A Red Carpet Affair” formal took place on Friday, September 30, at The Water’s Edge in Darien, CT. Over 120 people attended, including consumers, staff and family members. This wonderful event was planned by the ten members of the ARI Self Advocacy group. Everyone enjoyed a great dinner and dancing.



This night was made possible by the generous support of our event sponsors. Everyone who wanted to attend was able to thanks to their support. Photos from the evening were taken by Monica Stitt of Monstar Photography. Lighting for the event was provided by Kristi Kuligowski of JB Lighting Production. Both donated their time for this event.



“This was a truly spectacular night for all who attended. Rarely, if ever, do our consumers have the opportunity to put on gowns and tuxedos and dance the night away at a formal event. It was a night that they will never forget. This is what our mission calls us to do, to enrich the lives of the people we support.”

– Susanne D. Kuligowski, President & CEO

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities and their families by enabling them to achieve their fullest potential at home, at work and in the community.

From the President & CEO

Photo by Bernie Weiss



It is hard to believe that another season is just about over; the beauty of the fall colors and cooler days has turned into shorter days, early nights, and very chilly mornings. Excitement is in the air as we look forward to the joy of the holiday season and the first beautiful snowfall of winter. As I reflect on the last six months,

I am both amazed and exhausted with all that has been going on! It has been a very busy and exciting few months at ARI, which will be evident as you read through this newsletter.

What has been most encouraging is the outpouring of support from new donors and supporters as well as the long list of friends and family who have always been there for us. Without all of your generosity, it would not be possible for us to provide any of the activities and events that truly enrich the lives of the people we support every day. You have made it possible for us to re-launch a Computer Lab, host the Red Carpet Formal event, provide many recreation activities, purchase new vehicles, and spruce up our properties. And this is just the short list!

The joy that we see in the faces of our consumers provides us with the strength and energy to continue to work hard every day and to continue to ensure that we are helping them to achieve their goals and realize their dreams. Every day is a struggle and the road ahead is not straight or smooth. I am so glad that we are all on this journey together and I look forward to your continued support. Please look out for the ARI Annual Appeal in your mailbox and email in the upcoming weeks and give as generously as you are able. Our future depends on it!

During this season of Thanksgiving, I am truly thankful for each and every one of the members of the ARI "family"! I am thankful for our volunteers, donors and supporters. I am thankful for our incredibly dedicated staff. I am thankful to the family members who have entrusted us with their loved ones. And I am most thankful for the people we support as they inspire me to work harder and to be a better person every day.

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful, joyful holiday season!

With sincere appreciation,
Susanne D. Kuligowski
President & CEO

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter and other communications from ARI electronically, please email gasparinog@arict.org.

Day Services



The Day Program welcomed two individuals to its programs. One consumer began Day Service Options in August and a second began working in the Group Supported Employment in October.

We received two generous donations this quarter. One anonymous donation for \$100,000, with 50% restricted to the purchase of new vehicles and one \$50,000 anonymous donation in honor of Gladys Cohen, also restricted for vehicle purchases. In October, we purchased three vehicles to replace some of our aging vehicles. Over the upcoming months we will be purchasing a few more.

We have installed new computers and software in the computer lab. These computers will be used to teach employment and life skills curriculum. There is a total of 10 computers in the lab. Along with these computers, the program will use tablets for mobile training in the community. This significant upgrade to our computer lab was made possible by grants from Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Pitney Bowes, and Staples

As part of the Halloween/Fall season activities, the Day Program held an annual Halloween Party. Everyone dressed up in their favorite costumes and decorated their classroom doors while competing for the title of best door. Our seniors group also enjoyed a day out picking pumpkins.

Residential Services

In October, both our Ridgefield and Lotstein CLA received a two year license. Over the next six months, the other three CLA's will be inspected and we expect a two-year license for all.

As our consumers age, we continue to meet their changing needs. Our Residential Program continues to provide a high level of support to ensure that consumers are able to age in place. Over the past three months, we have had two consumers hospitalized for a change in their medical condition. Our residential program worked hard to meet their needs and we are proud to say that both are back home and thriving.

Fifteen consumers enjoyed "Circus in October" at the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport. Consumers have also attended concerts in the community and continue to take advantage of many recreational and social outings.



ARI Wish List

Want to help but don't know where to start? Here is a list of opportunities to support our programs and services. You can make a real difference in the lives of our consumers by making a donation or giving your time and expertise. If you are interested in donating or assisting with any of these needs please contact Gerard Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023 or email gasparinog@arict.org.

Sponsor the ARI Artists' Initiative

- Annual ARI Artists' Initiative Sponsor \$1,000 per month
- Art Class Sponsor \$500 per month
- Class supplies \$50 per month
- Special projects, printing of greeting cards, and the calendar \$500 per project

Upcoming Event Title Sponsors

- 11th Annual Walk for Independence, May 2017 \$5,000
- 22nd Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament, Summer, 2017 \$5,000
- 2nd Annual Gospel Concert for Independence, Winter, 2017 \$5,000

In-Kind Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

- Mini-refrigerator for the new ARI Snack Bar
- Painting (interior and exterior)
- Landscaping Services and Lawn Care Equipment
- ARI Committees and Events Volunteers
- Aqua-Aerobics Instructor
- Art Class Teacher / Assistant
- ARI Website Redesign
- Fundraising Database entry and updating
- Computers that meet the Windows 7 system requirements
- Lead activities and parties in group homes

Thank you for Supporting ARI of Connecticut!!
Just fill out and mail this form to ARI of CT, 174 Richmond Hill Avenue, Stamford CT 06902.

- Benefactor \$2,500 +
- Leader \$1,000-\$2,499
- Supporter \$500-\$999
- Contributor \$250-\$499
- Friend \$100-\$249
- Donor \$25-\$99
- Other _____
- Enclosed is a completed form from my employer's matching gift program.

Mr / Mrs / Ms Name _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Tel: (H) _____ (C) _____
Email: _____
Payment Type: Check Cash American Express Mastercard Visa
Credit Card #: _____
Name on Card: _____
Exp ____ / ____ 3 digit # on back of card: _____

For more information, please go to www.arict.org or call 203 324-9258, ext. 3023

Grants and Community Support



ARI received a \$100,000 donation from an anonymous donor. At least 50% of the donation will be used to upgrade the vehicles used in the Day Program.

ARI received a donation of \$50,000 from an anonymous donor in honor of Gladys Cohen, which will also be used to upgrade the vehicles used in our programs.

ARI received \$4,000 from the Estate of Mary Churley, an employee of ARI during the 1960s and 1970s. After leaving ARI, Ms. Churley continued to support the agency and kept us in her heart. She passed away in February, 2016.

Ernst & Young, as part of their annual EY Connect Day, spent Friday, September 30 volunteering their time at the Palermo Residence. Eighteen employees painted a bedroom and hallways and cleaned up the gardens and yard. Despite the rain, the day was very successful. This is the fifth year Ernst & Young has included ARI in their EY Connect Day and we are grateful for their continued support.

We are most grateful to all of these friends for their continued commitment to ARI. We continue to seek new support from the community. If you are interested in providing a grant or participating in volunteer project, please contact Gerard Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at gasparinog@arict.org or by calling (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023.

Have you included ARI of Connecticut, Inc. in your estate planning? This is a wonderful way to leave a legacy and continue to enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

Staff News

New Hires:

Demola Bamgbose, Residential Counselor, Palermo
Ashley Franco, Residential Counselor, Lotstein
Tamika Logan, Residential Counselor, Lotstein
Jerome Spearman, Residential Counselor, Floater
Mendosa Lauture-Maximilien, Residential Counselor, Palermo
Gavin Thompson, Residential Counselor, Tally Ho



Very happy consumers preparing for a trip in one of our new vehicles.



James Saunders, passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on Wednesday, October 26, 2016. He was 50 years old. Jimmy worked hard on the ARI Landscaping and Housekeeping Crews for many years. He lived a full, active life, winning multiple medals at the Special Olympics in sports such as skiing, tennis, and swimming. Jimmy also played guitar in the ARI Heart & Soul band. ARI will miss him

AmazonSmile

Shopping online? Go to our website www.arict.org first and click on the AmazonSmile logo on the ARI homepage. Designate ARI of CT and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to us whenever you shop via AmazonSmile. It is the same Amazon you know – same products, same prices, same service.



Click on the Goodshop Logo on the ARI homepage and a portion of purchases made on this site will be donated to ARI.

Recreation and Volunteers



In September, the Challenged People in Motion Golf season came to an end with their annual awards dinner. At the dinner two ARI consumers were recognized for their accomplishments. Han Tan was recognized with the Michael Burl Award. This is the highest award given to an athlete that excelled on the course. Erik Norgren was recognized as the Most Improved Golfer.

On September 10, at Scalzi Park in Stamford, the ARI Bocce Team competed for the first time in several years at the Special Olympics. Five consumers competed in both Bocce Skills and Tournament play. Francine McMillian gave the athlete's oath and presented plaques to sponsors of the event at Opening Ceremonies and then won a Silver Medal in the tournament. Joey Maslan, Rickey Denes, Anne Marie Joyce, and Marie Kerr rounded out the team and performed admirably.



The annual Halloween Party took place on Monday, October 24 at the Knights of Columbus. Over sixty consumers dressed in costumes and danced throughout the evening. Once again, the Knights of Columbus donated the hall and Michael Powers Catering provided dinner.

Art Class and Aqua Aerobics resumed in October. The Stamford Symphony donated tickets to the October concert and will continue to allow consumers at ARI to enjoy the Symphony during the 2016–2017 season. In total nearly 100 consumers at ARI took advantage of recreational activities over the past three months.



Many of these events cannot happen without the support of the several dozen volunteers at ARI. We thank all of our volunteers that assist with the recreation program, specifically the volunteers from Future Five who helped at the annual Halloween Party and the three volunteers who spearhead the Aqua Aerobics program.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about the ARI Recreation Program please contact Gerard J. Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at gasparinog@aric.org.





ARI of Connecticut, Inc.,
 174 Richmond Hill Avenue
 Stamford, Connecticut 06902
 WWW.ARICT.ORG

**Nonprofit
 Organization**
 US Postage Paid
 Stamford, CT
 06902
 Permit No. 164

2ND ANNUAL
ARI of CT
Gospel Concert for Independence
COMING IN MARCH 2017

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. • Established 1952

Susanne D. Kuligowski
 PRESIDENT & CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

Peter A. Buck, Chairperson
 John D. Russo, Treasurer
 Lee Combrinck-Graham, M.D.,
 Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Brown, Sr.
 Renee Brown
 Calvin Chapman
 Rickey Denes
 Lynne Fife
 Latoya Hunter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 CHAIRPERSONS EMERITI

Barbara Aronica-Buck
 Peter A. Buck
 Henry Brenner, Ph.D.*
 Arlene O. DuBiago
 Christopher M. Foxall
 Edward Granelli
 Sari Jaffe, Esq.
 Louis Lotstein*
 Paul G. Macari

Thelma V. Martin*
 Philip Molstre
 Dennis Murphy*
 Mario Musilli, Esq.
 Frank D. Rich III
 Richard W. Saunders*
 Allan Sussman
 Richard E. Taber
 Scott M. Wich
 Francis White*

*deceased

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. is a non-profit organization under IRS code 501(c)(3). The ARI News is published for the members, board of directors, family members, people served, staff and friends of ARI of Connecticut, Inc. Edited and designed by Barbara C. Aronica-Buck. Published by ARI of Connecticut, Inc., 174 Richmond Hill Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut, 06902-5696. (203) 324-9258. Fax (203) 324-3949. Email: www.arict.org. ARI of Connecticut, Inc. supports equal opportunity without regard to race, color, sex, marital status, age, disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, citizenship or sexual orientation. ARI of Connecticut, Inc. is funded by DDS.